

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 19, 63, 72, 73, 76, 77, 80-85, 87, 90-94, 101-104, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114-116, 125-127, 129-143, 145-173, 175-189 and 191-216 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 113, 117 and 118 have been amended. New claims 217-288 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 17, 18, 59-62, 70, 71, 74, 75, 78, 79, 86, 88, 89, 105, 108, 110, 113, 117-124, 128, 144, 174, 190 and 217-288 are believed to be currently pending in this application.

Allowable dependent claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 217 and allowable dependent claim 106 has been rewritten as new independent claim 218. Dependent allowable claim 113 has been written in independent form. Support for new claims 219-222 may be found in claim 1, support for new claims 223-226 may be found in claim 2, support for new claims 227-230 may be found in canceled claim 3, support for new claim 231 may be found in claim 12, support for new claims 232 and 233 may be found in canceled claim 19, support for new claims 234-236 may be found in claim 59, support for new claims 237 and 238 may be found in claim 60, support for new claims 239-241 may be found in claims 61-63, support for claims 242-244 may be found in claims 70-72, support for claims 245 and 246 may be found in claims 74-77, support for claims 247 and 248 may be found in claims 78-81, support for new claims 249-152 may be found in paragraph [0029] on page 16 of the specification, support for new claims 252-255 may be found in paragraph [0027] on pages 14-15 and support for claims 256-260 may be found in paragraph [0033] on

page 17. New claims 261-289 are supported throughout the specification and original claims.

Applicants believe that all new claims are free of new matter.

Turning to the Office Action, the objection to claims 139 and 161 has been rendered moot by cancellation of these claims.

Claims 187-216 were objected to for the reasons given on page 2 of the Office Action. Reconsideration of this objection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 187-189 and 191-216 have been canceled. With respect to claim 190, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position that a preform could be considered an optical part. The present disclosure indicates quite clearly that a preform is an intermediate which is used to prepare an optical part. The separate methods used to prepare preforms and optical parts is discussed on pages 29-30 of the specification.

In view of the above remarks, the objection to claim 190 should be withdrawn. Such action is earnestly requested.

Claims 117, 118, 136, 139 and 168 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons given on page 3 of the Office Action. Reconsideration is requested of this rejection in view of the above amendments and the following reasons.

Claims 136, 139 and 168 have been canceled. Claims 117 and 118 have been amended to indicate that the essential components are present in amounts greater than 0%. Accordingly, the §112 rejection has been obviated.

Claims 126, 142, 172 and 188 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,333,282 to Nakahata et al. for the reasons given on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. This rejection has been rendered moot by cancellation of these claims.

Claims 111, 112, 114, 126, 142, 172 and 188 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 07-097234 to Koichi for the reasons set forth on pages 5-6 of the Office

Action. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 111, 112, 114, 126, 142, 172 and 188.

Claims 3, 63, 72, 76, 84, 90, 94, 109, 116, 125-127, 129-143, 145-173, 175-189 and 191-216 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by EP 1 078 894 A2 to Nakahata et al. for the reasons provided on pages 6-7 of the Office Action. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 111, 112, 114, 115, 138-140 and 184-186 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,115,131 to Ishibashi et al. for the reasons given on pages 8-9 of the Office Action. Since these claims have all be canceled, this rejection has been rendered moot.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683.

Respectfully submitted,

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